## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

BUREAU OF SPORT FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE

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## SURPLUS BIG-GAME SALES ANNOUNCED BY INTERIOR DEPARTMENT

Gourmets and those who simply enjoy eating wild game can again buy buffalo and elk meat through "surplus big-game sales" at three National Wildlife Refuges, the Department of the Interior said today, emphasizing that prices are lower this year and a larger number of animals will be sold.

This year's sales, now starting, will total 300 buffalo and 250 elk.

A whole buffalo carcass can be purchased from \$200 to \$260, depending on the processing. Elk will range from \$90 to \$120. Elk halves will be sold, as well as buffalo quarters and halves. Live buffalo also will be sold at \$235 each.

The sales are used by the Department's Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife as a management tool to keep the herds within the carrying capacity of their range. Elk and buffalo are being sold at the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge near Cache, Okla. Only buffalo will be sold at Fort Niobrara National Wildlife Refuge, Valentine, Neb., and the National Bison Range near Moiese, Mont.

Francis G. Gillett, Chief of the Bureau's Refuge Division, said that processing at Wichita and Fort Niobrara will range from butchered, dressed, and quartered animals to packaging in family or barbecue-style cuts and freezing for shipment. Lack of freezer facilities at the National Bison Range in Montana limits orders there to the Northwestern States.

If orders received at the refuges before September 30 exceed the number of animals to be sold, a drawing will be held October 1 to select applicants. Orders received after September 30 will be honored on a first-come-first-served basis if meat is still available.

The official price list and ordering instructions can be obtained from managers at the refuges or from the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240. Orders, however, should be sent only to the manager of the refuge involved.

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